

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

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1) Solar-Powered Mobile Clinics to Boost Rural Healthcare in Africa

Around the world, innovative thinking is finding new ways of using solar power technology to bring electricity to underserved areas of the global South. Innovators are experimenting with new technologies, new business models and new ways to finance getting solar power into the hands of the poor.

One recently launched new solution is a solar-powered mobile health clinic that is bringing 21st-century medical diagnostic services to rural areas.

The US \$250,000 Solar Powered Health Centre has been built by the Korean technology company Samsung (http://www.samsung.com/africa_en/news/localnews/2013/samsung-launches-solar-powered-health-centre-model-to-bring-quality-healthcare-to-rural-areas).

A truck packed with medical equipment that draws electricity from solar panels, it is traveling to rural, underserved parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

The truck is seven metres in length and comes packed with medical goodies, including a fully equipped eye and blood clinic and a dental surgery. It hopes to make it easier to reach the six in 10 residents of sub-Saharan Africa who live in rural areas, and who are often very far from affordable medical services. There is a blood analyzer, spectacle repair kit, and a non-contact tonometry test to measure the inside of a person's eye. People can also be tested for HIV, malaria and many other conditions.

Samsung (samsung.com) developed the truck as part of its efforts to create "Built for Africa" technologies. The truck was built in Johannesburg, South Africa, helping create local jobs and skills.

Samsung hopes to scale the initiative to a million people in Africa by 2015.

The clinics were launched in Cape Town at the 2013 Samsung Africa Forum and are being rolled out by Samsung Electronics Africa (http://www.samsung.com/africa_en/#latest-home) as part of what the company calls a "large-scale medical initiative on the continent".

The roaming trucks will be staffed by qualified medical professionals and will educate people about the importance of preventive medical screening.

Targeted conditions include diabetes, high blood pressure, tooth decay and cataracts. The clinics will also conduct public health education campaigns about the importance of preventive medicine (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preventive_medicine).

"What many see as minor health issues will not only get worse over time, but will affect other aspects of quality of life. The child that cannot see properly cannot learn properly," said Dr. Mandlalele Mhinga, a member of the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital (<http://nelsonmandelachildrenshospital.org/>). "Mobile solutions help address this issue by making medical services accessible to more people in rural areas, and educating them about health care at the same time."

The mobile clinics hope to reduce the vast difference between the quality of health care available to rural residents and people in urban areas.

Even in countries such as South Africa with the highest level of development in the region, medical care coverage is patchy and unreliable. For those who can afford it, 20 per cent of the population, there are private medical schemes.

In this issue:

[1\) Solar-Powered Mobile Clinics to Boost Rural Healthcare in Africa](#)

[2\) Vietnamese Google Rival Challenging Global Giant](#)

[3\) More Futuristic African Cities in the Works](#)

[4\) Haitian Coffee Becoming a Hit with American Connoisseurs](#)

[5\) New 3D Technology Makes Innovation Breakthrough and Puts Mind over Matter](#)

Featured links:

[Babajob.com](#)
[Equator Initiative](#)
[Kiva.org](#)
[SSC Website](#)

Quick links:

[Window on the World](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Awards and Funding](#)
[Training and Job Opportunities](#)
[Past Issues](#)

Bookmark with:



But everyone else must rely on an over-stretched and under-funded public health sector.

Samsung has based this innovation on its first-hand experience with providing medical services to rural areas in Africa.

"This experience has shown us how desperately medical treatment is needed across the continent, and inspired us to develop a sustainable and innovative solution to reach the people who need it most," said Ntutule Tshenye, Business-to-Government and Corporate Citizenship Lead for Samsung Africa. "While our CSR (corporate social responsibility) strategy in Africa is largely focused on education, our efforts to enrich lives will not be felt if people's basic needs, such as access to healthcare, are not met."

Samsung's "Built for Africa" product range (http://www.samsung.com/africa_en/africancitizenship/home4.html) also has a wide range of other projects and initiatives to boost health and living standards on the continent. These include education programmes, such as the Samsung Electronics Engineering Academy, Samsung Solar Powered Internet Schools, the Samsung Power Generator, and the Samsung eLearning Centres.

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. is a consumer electronics multinational and employs 227,000 people worldwide.

LINKS:

- 1) Solar Powered Hearing Aid: "The Solar Ear is an innovative design for a hearing aid that is both low in cost and eco-friendly. By using solar power technology and cost effective manufacturing, it aims to bring sound to the millions globally who are deaf". **Website:** <http://www.envirogadget.com/solar-powered/solar-powered-hearing-aid/>
- 2) Solar-Powered Blood Pressure Device Enables Off-Grid Medical Aid: Researchers have developed a new solar-powered device that will allow doctors to measure blood pressure and dispense critical medical aid in developing countries around the world. **Website:** <http://inhabitat.com/solar-powered-blood-pressure-device-enables-off-grid-medical-aid/>
- 3) The Solarclave, a Solar-Powered Medical Instrument Sterilizer: The Solarclave is made from repurposed parts and is a reflective satellite TV dish focusing sunlight onto a modified wine bottle above it. "The sunlight heats water in the bottle and forces steam into a pressure cooker below. In field tests in Nicaragua, the Solarclave can reach the CDC-recommended heat and pressure levels—250 F at 15 psi—in an hour". **Website:** <http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/health/med-tech/7-medical-upgrades-for-developing-countries-6#slide-6>
- 4) Solar Sister: Solar Sister eradicates energy poverty by empowering women with economic opportunity. **Website:** <http://www.solarsister.org/>
- 5) SOL - Solar Powered Laptop: The world's first fully solar-powered laptop. Calling itself the "All-Terrain Off-Road Sport Utility Laptop", it is made by a Canadian company. **Website:** <http://www.solalaptop.com/>

2) Vietnamese Google Rival Challenging Global Giant

Information technologies are creating new business opportunities across the global South. As more and more people gain access to the Internet in one form or another, opportunities to offer them services also increase.

A number of key trends show how the Internet's profile is being reshaped by the growing number of users from the global South. One of those trends is language. English was the first language to dominate the Internet - but this is changing, according to the latest data.

China has the largest number of Internet users in the world (China Internet Network Information Center) and the Chinese language is the second-most often used online, behind English and before Spanish and Japanese (<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm>).

While most English-language users turn to the giant Google search engine to look things up on the Internet, Google also has many rivals chasing its tail. In China, Baidu (baidu.com) offers searches in Mandarin using Chinese characters, making the Internet easier to navigate for Mandarin speakers. Elsewhere, Arabic language Internet users are being offered new services and urls using Arabic characters.

In short, the Internet is becoming multilingual, customized and local, and creating new opportunities with it.

One new business in Vietnam is challenging Google with its own locally tailored search engine. Called Coc Coc (<http://coccoc.com/>) - Knock Knock in English - it has already spent US \$10 million to hire 300 staff at its Hanoi base, according to the Associated Press. Whether Coc Coc is successful or not in the long term, it is clear as a business it is already helping the local economy by hiring so many people and investing in Vietnam. Google currently does not have any staff in Vietnam because of its concerns about legal conflict with the government over censorship of content on the Internet, AP reports.

Coc Coc believes it has developed a system that better understands the grammar, syntax and nuances of the Vietnamese language. Another advantage it believes it has over Google is its large presence on the ground in

Vietnam. With a headquarters in Hanoi, it can quickly make marketing deals and agreements with content providers. To further its local advantage, Coc Coc has dispatched camera crews and photographers to film and photograph streets and log the details of shops, cafes and businesses - all to make search results more accurate and richer in detail.

The headquarters is spread out over four floors of a downtown office block in Hanoi, and according to the Associated Press has a relaxed atmosphere similar to that found in many places in California's technology start-up culture.

Coc Coc is a joint Russian-Vietnamese venture and is hoping to ride the fast-growing Asian Internet market by offering a search tool that understands the nuances of the Vietnamese language online. By using algorithms (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algorithm>) it promises to give a faster and better search experience to Vietnamese-language users. It also uses its knowledge of the local scene to tailor results to users' needs.

The plan is to spend US \$100 million during the next five years to lure 97 per cent of Vietnamese Internet users to make the switch from Google.

"When I came here, I had some understanding why Vietnam was a good market to beat Google," said Mikhail Kostin, the company's chief search expert. "But after living here for one year, I understand the language and market much more deeply. I'm sure it's right."

Having a local search engine tool can be a successful approach. The Yandex (<http://www.yandex.com/>) search engine in Russia beats Google in the Russian-speaking market. In South Korea, there is the Naver (naver.com) search engine.

Google battled it out with the Chinese search engine Baidu in 2010 before leaving the country when Google refused to abide by government censorship guidelines. Baidu in the meantime has become the number one search engine in China and is planning to expand to other markets throughout Asia.

"Google is a foreign company, and they are not here," said one of the three founders of Coc Coc, Nguyen Duc Ngoc. "We can serve the interests of the local market better."

Vietnam has been experiencing rapid economic growth since the introduction of the Doi Moi (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doi_Moi) economic reforms two decades ago in 1986. Vietnam is fast becoming an Internet success story, with a third of its population of 88 million (World Bank) (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/vietnam>) now online. Many are accessing the Internet through their mobile phones and electronic devices.

Vietnam connected to the Internet in the 1990s and the infrastructure was built up in the mid-2000s. A national plan that kicked off in 2005 accelerated take-up of the Internet in the country as more and more people accessed the Internet through mobile phones, often at home, rather than just in public Internet centres. One study found 71 per cent of users in major cities were accessing the Internet at home (<https://opennet.net/research/profiles/vietnam>). One in three people in Vietnam now has access to the Internet. Significantly, the Internet has been an overwhelming success with youth in the main cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, where 95 per cent of people in the 15-to-22 age group has Internet access.

Optimists point to Vietnam's large youth population, fast-growing economy and its modern Internet infrastructure as advantages that will boost its Internet economy. This is attracting entrepreneurs and investors from across Asia and around the world working in the field of online content, e-payments systems and other online services.

With Vietnam's Internet scene on fire, many people and companies are piling in to come up with the Next Big Thing online. Many have failed, but the same is true in every other country where new information technologies have been introduced. The nature of information technology innovation means ideas quickly rise or die depending on whether Internet users find the innovation useful or attractive. Despite great ideas, there are often far too many factors at play to guarantee any one person or company will have a success on their first try. As has happened elsewhere, ideas hatched by small start-ups, if good, are gobbled up by larger companies. Talented and skilled people usually find themselves being chased by other companies.

LINKS:

- 1) Technasia: "Vietnam is Asia's New Tech Manufacturing Hub". **Website:** <http://www.technasia.com/vietnam-asias-tech-manufacturing-hub/>
- 2) Allo' Expat Vietnam: A list of Vietnam's Internet Service Providers (ISPs). **Website:** http://www.vietnam.alloexpat.com/vietnam_information/internet_service_providers_vietnam.php
- 3) Telecommunications in Vietnam: A quick explanation from Wikipedia on the state of play in Vietnam. **Website:** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Vietnam
- 4) Vietnam Women's Innovation Day 2013: Theme: "Women's Economic Empowerment". **Website:** <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/03/13/vietnam-womens-innovation-day-2013-launched-themed-womens-economic-empowerment-8221>

3) More Futuristic African Cities in the Works

It has been well documented that China is undergoing the largest migration in human history from rural areas to cities. But this urbanization trend is occurring across the global South, including in Africa, as well. According to the UN, more than half the world's population already lives in cities, and 70 per cent will live in urban areas by 2050. Most of the world's population growth is concentrated in urban areas in the global South.

These emerging urban areas represent vast opportunities for innovators. Innovators will be needed to build them, and in turn they will provide modern facilities for innovators to operate in and engage with the global economy. And they will connect innovators to 21st-century information technology.

But while the government in China engages in significant planning and preparation to facilitate movements to urban areas - often building entire cities from scratch (<http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1975397,00.html>) - that has not been the case in Africa. People in Africa are on the move because they are seeking out opportunities, but much of this movement has been poorly planned and not well thought out.

But now more and more African governments are grappling with how to call time on chaotic and haphazard development and build sustainable, planned cities that will significantly improve human development and quality of life.

Across Africa, a host of ambitious new cities and urban developments are in the works.

Kenya's Konza Technology City (konzacity.co.ke) is planned as a new centre 60 kilometres from the capital, Nairobi. Calling itself a "world-class technology hub and a major economic driver for the nation", it offers a high-tech vision full of ultra-modern buildings and houses in order to spur the future growth of Kenya's technology industry.

It is hoped Konza will create 100,000 jobs by 2030. There will be a central business district, a university campus for 1,500 students, a residential community, and parks and wildlife in green corridors.

The groundbreaking ceremony occurred on January 2013 but the Kenyan Ministry of Lands and Housing has halted operations to allow for greater community engagement, according to Urban Africa. A dispute had erupted with the current landowners who wanted to be better consulted about the development and had accused the government of locking them out of the physical planning process.

Tatu City, Kenya (tatucity.com) bills itself as "by Kenyans, for Kenyans". It is being built by Rendeavour (rendeavour.com), the urban development division of Moscow-based Renaissance Group (rengroup.com), one of the largest urban developers of land in Africa. It joins Konza Technology City as a flagship project for the government's Vision 2030, hoping to turn Kenya into a middle-income country and a role model for other countries in East Africa.

Tatu City is 15 kilometres from Nairobi. It will take up 1,035 hectares and will be completed in 10 phases. Construction began in May 2012 and is scheduled to be completed by 2022.

It is selling safety and a "beautiful urban environment" just a short journey away from Nairobi's existing Central Business District. Tatu City wants to be "a model of the African city of the future" as a "dynamic mixed-use, mixed-income environment that will be home to an estimated 70,000 residents and 30,000 day visitors".

Just 25 minutes from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, it promises to be one of "the most modern, well-planned urban developments in East Africa".

In Ghana, a number of innovative projects in development reflect the country's impressive economic growth and information technology achievements in the past decade.

Two cities are being designed by Rendeavour. One, Appolonia, is being built in the Greater Accra area while the second, King City, is being built on the west coast of the country where there is an oil and gas boom underway.

Both will have houses, retail and commercial centres, schools, healthcare facilities and other social services.

"Our objective is to provide the basic infrastructure, planning and necessary management framework in creating satellite cities that reverses the current trend of unplanned development and urban congestion in most of Africa's growing cities," Tim Beighton of Rendeavour told CNN.

These projects are in an advanced stage, with all plans completed and approved by the government, according to their websites.

Appolonia City of Light near Accra (appolonia.com.gh) - due to break ground in the third quarter of 2013 - capitalizes on Accra's status as one of Africa's fastest-growing urban areas. The Appolonia development will be a "planned, sustainable, mixed-use and mixed-income city" to build a "work-live-play" community for 88,000 people living in 22,000 homes.

It will be built 30 kilometres northeast of Accra's central business district and will have retail, commercial and industrial space combined with tourism, social and recreation facilities.

King City in Takoradi (kingcity.com.gh) calls itself "Western Ghana's new holistic city". It will offer homes, shops, offices, industries and public places. The plan includes building 25,000 new homes and, importantly, over 30 per cent of the city will be allocated for green space. It will take up 1,000 hectares on the outskirts of Sekondi-Takoradi.

Elsewhere in Accra, the Hope (Home Office People Environment) City (<http://www.rlgghana.com/index.php/2013-02-07-11-25-04.html>) is a much more ambitious concept. It is one of a cluster of projects in Africa focused on building the infrastructure for a 21st century, high-tech future. Costing US \$10 billion, it will be built outside Accra and is focused on boosting Ghana's already established reputation in the field of information and communications technology. It will be home to 25,000 people and create jobs for 50,000. There will be six towers including a 75-storey, 270 metre building that hopes to be the highest in Africa.

It is being financed by RLG Communications, a mix of investors and a stock-buying scheme.

There will be an assembly plant for high-tech products, business offices an information technology university, a hospital and restaurants, theaters and sports centres.

The design is hyper-modern and tries to create a vertical office environment that is dense and reduces the amount of time it takes to get around and circulate between businesses in the complex.

Eko Atlantic on Victoria Island in Lagos, Nigeria (ekoatlantic.com) is a coastal residential and business development that calls itself "The New Gateway to Africa". To ease pressure in an already crowded city, it is being built on 10 square kilometres of reclaimed land from the Atlantic Ocean. It will be able to house 250,000 people and give work to 150,000.

The story began in 2003 when the Lagos State government was looking for a solution to protect the Bar Beach area of the city from coastal erosion. Land is being reclaimed from the sea and it will make up an area the equivalent of Manhattan in New York City. Just like Manhattan, it is hoped Eko Atlantic will become the new financial centre for West Africa by the year 2020.

Kilamba, or Nova Cidade de Kilamba (<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.231897596836631.80284.228497773843280>), 30 kilometres outside Luanda, Angola is being built by the China International Trust and Investment Corporation (<http://www.citic.com/wps/portal>). It is on a vast scale and is designed to be home to 500,000 people with apartment blocks and commercial spaces. It has cost so far US \$3.5 billion and is part of a government pledge to provide a million new homes within four years. Kilamba has come in for criticism for not being affordable enough for ordinary Angolans and for having much of the site unoccupied. With the apartments too expensive for ordinary Angolans, the government has decided to take action and ordered the prices to be reduced and made more affordable, according to Angola Press .

La Cite du Fleuve in the Democratic Republic of Congo (lacitydufleuve.com) is a more conventional luxury housing development built on two islands in the capital, Kinshasa. Kinshasa, despite its problems and the turmoil from an ongoing civil war, is one of the continent's fastest-growing cities. Developed by Hawkwood Properties, La Cite du Fleuve will need to reclaim 375 hectares of sandbanks and swamps to be able to build a collection of riverside villas, offices and shopping centres. It is planned to take 10 years to complete.

And finally, Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, wants to transform itself into the "center of urban excellence in Africa".

The 2020 Kigali Conceptual Master Plan (<http://www.kigalicity.gov.rw/spip.php?article494>) hopes to create a regional hub for business, trade and tourism, by building a mix of commercial and shopping districts with glass skyscrapers and modern hotels, parks and entertainment facilities.

Critics, however, believe these new cities and modern developments are tackling the problems of urban development by bypassing most of the population. They argue they are just developments for those with money who can buy their way out of the chaos and lack of planning of current African cities.

"They are essentially designed for people with money," Vanessa Watson, professor of city planning at the University of Cape Town, told CNN. She believes most of the plans are unsustainable "urban fantasies" detached from the reality of African poverty and informal living.

But while it is easy to criticize these ambitious projects, they reflect not only optimism for the continent's future but also a clear recognition the continent will not be able to get wealthier without modern cities and infrastructure in keeping with a 21st-century economy.

LINKS:

- 1) Southern Innovator Issue 4: Cities and Urbanization: SI's fourth issue goes to the many new cities under construction to build the new 21st century world emerging in the global South. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization>
- 2) Urban Africa: Urban Africa is a digital entry point for knowledge sharing, interactive exchange and information dissemination on urbanization in Africa. **Website:** <http://urbanafrica.net/>

- 3) Arrival City: A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — unseen districts of rapid transformation and febrile activity that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>
- 4) Global Urbanist: The Global Urbanist is an online magazine reviewing urban affairs and urban development issues in cities throughout the developed and developing world. **Website:** globalurbanist.com
- 5) Africa Renewal: The Africa Renewal information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/>

4) Haitian Coffee Becoming a Hit with American Connoisseurs

The Caribbean country of Haiti has had to deal with the twin challenges of recovering from a devastating earthquake in 2010 while also pulling itself out of the economic and social chaos that has resulted in its status as the poorest place in the Western hemisphere.

Violence has also led to a number of UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti over the years, and there is now a substantial international presence in the country to aid in stabilization and economic recovery (<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minustah/>).

Haiti has a lot of potential when it comes to agriculture, but this would require substantial changes in the way land and agriculture are managed.

Haiti is ranked 77 out of 79 countries in the 2012 Global Hunger Index. Access to sufficient quantities of nutritious food remains an issue for millions of Haitians. An estimated 3.8 million Haitians, or 38 per cent of the population, is food insecure (WFP 2012). Despite its fertile potential, Haiti is dependent on food aid and imports to meet its food security needs.

Fifty per cent of the country's food requirements are imported, and food prices have been rising since the end of 2010, the year of Haiti's devastating earthquake. This increase has led to an overall loss of purchasing power for the majority of Haitians. Low agricultural productivity and urban encroachment on arable land provide additional challenges for Haiti's rural populations. Eighty per cent of farms fail to produce enough to feed their households (<http://www.foodsecurityportal.org/haiti/resources>).

But some are trying to create a new market for Haiti's agricultural products to help boost farmers and farming as an occupation and an industry.

It's hard to imagine now, but Haiti was once the world's largest producer of coffee in the 18th century when it was a French colony. Today Haiti produces less than 1 per cent of the world's coffee.

The targeting of niche coffee drinkers in the United States has introduced a new market to the special taste of the Haitian brew. While the market at present is small, some are hoping, with the right measures, it could be grown significantly, boosting both the country's revenue from agricultural exports and incomes for coffee farmers.

Several US-based companies are carving out a market for Haitian coffee and boosting awareness about the country's unique coffee beans. La Colombe Coffee Roasters (<http://lacolombe.com/>), based in the city of Philadelphia, has already been able to export four shipping containers of Haitian coffee to the United States since 2010. The company supplies high-end chefs such as Eric Ripert and Daniel Boulud.

In Florida, Kafe Pa Nou (kafepanou.com) - "our coffee" in Haitian Creole - is owned by Haitian-American Jean René Faustin and sells online coffee from Haitian suppliers Rebo and Cafe Selecto.

So far, Haitian coffee has not been able to gain wider distribution through mass buyers such as Starbucks because it has not been possible to supply the quantities required to fulfill such a contract.

Haiti would need to boost its current average coffee yield of 250 kilograms per hectare to double or triple that yield to gain large-scale contracts.

"Haiti was for a brief moment in time the biggest producer of coffee for export in the world," Gilbert Gonzales, Vice President of coffee exporter Rebo (<http://rebo.ht/The%20Technics.htm>), told Medium for Haiti (<https://medium.com/medium-for-haiti>). But "right now, most people would say it's impossible" for Haiti's coffee sector to return to international prominence.

"We're not saying that it's possible in the next two years, maybe not even in the next 12 years," he said. "But it is possible."

The coffee cherries used to make the popular beverage are processed in one of two ways: a dry process and a wet process. In Haiti, the dry process is more commonly used to form a hard cocoon on the outside of the coffee cherries to help preserve them for a year or more.

This enables farmers to preserve the coffee cherries so they can keep a portion of the crop back as a safety reserve.

The wet processed beans are first immersed in water and then the pulp is washed away before the beans are dried (http://coffee.wikia.com/wiki/Wet_process). The superior flavor this creates has attracted fans in the United States, especially in the trendy neighbourhoods of Brooklyn, New York and San Francisco, California. By bucking the traditional Haitian dry processing method for the beans, it is possible to earn three times the market price by selling wet-processed beans.

Haiti's history of coffee growing goes back to the 1700s. At the time, the country grew half the world's coffee. This helped to make the French colony highly profitable.

This long heritage has left the country with a unique asset: original Arabica typica coffee trees first imported by Europeans to Haiti. These coffee trees are considered to be heirloom because they are so old and untainted by modern breeding methods. According to Douglas Weiner in Medium for Haiti, "when you drink coffee from Haiti, it's like drinking coffee from 200 years ago."

Weiner is part of a family business, Geo Weiner (<http://selectohaiti.com/home/>), which has been selling Haitian coffee for four generations and is one of the few surviving coffee exporters in the country.

The country has an estimated 200,000 coffee farmers. Because their methods have not changed much, they are effectively organic (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organic_food). Most farmers cannot afford chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

The coffee farms are located in mountain areas with a rich biodiversity of plants and trees. This stands in stark contrast with much of the rest of the country, where deforestation has left the country with just 2 per cent of virgin forest left. Coffee-producing areas are lush and green because coffee is one of the few cash crops that makes enough money to keep it worthwhile to preserve the trees and foliage. In other parts of the country, many are making money from turning trees into charcoal for cooking fuel, the most common fuel for most of the country's population.

Haiti's coffee growers have had a hard time coping with the rise and fall of world coffee prices. The world market price for coffee dropped in the early 2000s as the markets were flooded with coffee from Brazil and Vietnam. In response, farmers then cut down the coffee trees and replaced them with subsistence crops such as corn and beans.

With the amount of coffee grown in Haiti dropping quickly, the number of exporters in the country plummeted from 20 companies to two companies today, Geo Weiner and Rebo.

Jobert Angrand, Executive Coordinator of the National Institute of Coffee (<http://www.icefda.org/>), believes coffee production declined in Haiti because of a wide range of problems, from diseases and pests to aging trees, too-small plots and inefficient production methods. Per-hectare coffee yields are as low as one-tenth of production in Latin America.

The Vice President of coffee exporter Rebo says these problems are holding things back. "I don't think today we're looking into going mainstream," said Gilbert Gonzales. "We can't. There is not enough volume for that."

Because production will be small, Gonzales believes Haiti would be wise to target the higher end of the marketplace with American grocery stores such as Trader Joe's and Whole Foods: "It's looking into the higher-end gourmet shops, things like that," he said, "so that we could really share with the rest of that world the quality available from Haiti."

Significant purchases of Haitian coffee have been made by various overseas companies, which does give hope that this plan could work. Irish coffee company Java Republic bought 97 tonnes of Haitian coffee from the Rebo exporter in 2010.

LINKS:

- 1) National Coffee Association: Ten Steps to Coffee. **Website:** <http://www.ncausa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=69>
- 2) International Coffee Organization: The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the main intergovernmental organization for coffee, bringing together exporting and importing governments to tackle the challenges facing the world coffee sector through international cooperation. Its member governments represent 97 per cent of world coffee production and over 80 per cent of world consumption. **Website:** <http://www.ico.org/>
- 3) Coffee Research: Growing Coffee Beans at Home. **Website:** <http://www.coffeeresearch.org/coffee/homegrowing.htm>
- 4) Puro Fairtrade Coffee: Puro is a leading brand of Fairtrade and Fair Trade Organic coffee that works in partnership with the World Land Trust to purchase and protect areas of precious rainforest in South America. **Website:** <http://www.purocoffee.com/>

5) New 3D Technology Makes Innovation Breakthrough and Puts Mind over Matter

Revolutions in technology are placing more and more power into the hands of the individual, and 3D printing and fabrication machines are opening a whole new chapter.

These devices come in many forms, but they all do one thing: they can manufacture pretty well any three-dimensional object on the spot, from digital plans. These machines come in many sizes, from factory scale to smaller, home versions which are no bigger than personal computer printers, such as the well-known MakerBot Replicator 2 (makerbot.com).

3D printers introduce sophisticated precision manufacturing to the individual much in the same way the personal computer and the Internet have empowered people to make their own software, build websites and start online businesses.

A pioneering educational innovation in Chile is taking the technology even further, in a way that is truly mind-blowing. Thinker Thing (thinkerthing.com) promises to transform the way people interact with this new technology. "We have built a machine that will allow you to make real objects with your mind," its website states.

And, it wants to do more: "We want to use our invention to light a fire of inspiration throughout the remote and often disadvantaged schools of South America and we can do this with your help."

Thinker Thing allows the user to wear a headset and communicate through brain waves to the 3D printer. The printer then manufactures a three-dimensional model of the thoughts. These can be squiggly shapes or even, it is hoped, more sophisticated forms.

Thinker Thing's Chilean Chief Technology Officer is George Laskowsky. Laskowsky has a games console engineering background and was a research assistant in charge of high-energy particle experiments.

The Chilean government is funding this experiment to help children to improve their creative skills. The idea is to use the technology to eliminate the technical side of creating objects and focus the effort on the creative thought process. Thinker Thing was selected from more than 1,400 applicants to participate in the prestigious global accelerator program, "Start Up Chile" (<http://startupchile.org>). Start-Up Chile is a program created by the Chilean government that seeks to attract early-stage high potential entrepreneurs to develop startups using Chile as a platform to go global, in line with the national goal of converting Chile into the innovation and entrepreneurship hub of Latin America.

Based in Santiago, Chile, Laskowsky is seeking support for further development on IndieGoGo (<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/children-creating-real-objects-with-their-mind>), an international crowdfunding platform for projects.

The plan is to tour Thinker Thing all around Chile and use the science, art and engineering principles behind the invention to help very young children in remote rural regions to learn through understanding the project. Its creators also hope to take the exhibition - called the Monster Dreamer School Outreach Program and the Fantastical Mind Creatures of Chile Exhibition - on the road and show it in major global cities.

The children are being asked to imagine fantastical creatures that will then be made into 3D forms with the machine. The idea is to then sell these 3D creatures to supporters of the project to help fund the initiative. As well, these creatures will go on display in an exhibition to help educate visitors about Chile's children and their communities.

To increase interest, exclusive photographic prints and limited edition figurines are available of the creatures the children create.

The prototype uses what is called an EmotivEPOC, basically a wireless neuroheadset collecting signals from the user's brain. In operation, the software allows users to make 3D models with the power of thought which are then made into a plastic model using a MakerBot Industries Replicator.

This is experimental stuff and neurotechnology is in its early stages. It can detect simple emotions such as excitement or boredom and cognitive thoughts such as push and pull. Despite being in its early stages, the technology can evolve a 3D object over a number of steps by detecting the user's emotional response to design changes.

Thinker Thing has been working alongside neuroscientists to understand the workings of the brain. Amazingly, in one experiment they were able to get a person to control the leg of a cockroach using their own thoughts. Called the Salt Shaker (<http://www.thinkerthing.com/about-2/salt-shaker/>), it is an experimental kit for young students and hobbyists that allows them to take control of a biological limb quickly and simply.

The 3D printing revolution is energizing for large and small-scale manufacturers alike. It means a business can now engage in precision manufacturing of products and spare parts quickly. It means it is possible to download from the Internet plans for new innovations and manufacture them within minutes. It also means communities off the mainstream supply line can make what they need and repair machinery without needing to wait weeks or months for items to be shipped from afar or spend vast sums on shipping costs.

The Fab Labs project based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been at the forefront of pioneering and prototyping this technology, including running testing labs across the global South to prove the relevance of the technology to the world's poorest communities.

As of 2012, these include Fab Lab Afghanistan (<http://www.fablab.af/>), in Chile the FabLab Santiago (www.designlab.uai/fablab), Fab Lab Egypt (www.fablab-egypt.com), in Colombia the FabLab Medellin (<http://www.fablabcolombia.com>), in Ghana the Takoradi Technical Institute (<http://ttifab.wikispaces.com/How+to+Use+the+TTI+Fab+Lab+Wiki>), in India at various locations, Indonesia's HONFablab (<http://honfablab.org>), ARO FabLab Kenya West (<http://www.fablab.co.ke>), and in Peru, South Africa, Suriname and many more are in the works (<http://fab.cba.mit.edu/about/labs/>).

If Thinker Thing has its way, maybe people in the future will say "I think, therefore I print!"

LINKS:

- 1) Stratasys: The company manufactures 3D printers and materials that create prototypes and manufactured goods directly from 3D CAD files or other 3D content. Stratasys systems are used by manufacturers to create models and prototypes to aid in the new product design process. And they are becoming widely used for production of finished goods in low-volume manufacturing. Systems range from affordable desktop 3D printers to large production systems for direct digital manufacturing. **Website:** <http://www.stratasys.com/>
- 2) 3D Systems: 3D Systems is a leading provider of 3D content-to-print solutions including 3D printers, print materials and on-demand custom parts services for professionals and consumers alike. **Website:** <http://www.3dsystems.com/>
- 3) ExOne: With decades of manufacturing experience and significant investment in research and product development, ExOne has pioneered the evolution of nontraditional manufacturing. This investment has yielded a new generation of rapid production technology in the field of additive manufacturing as well as advanced micromachining processes. **Website:** <http://www.exone.com/>
- 4) FabCentral: This site supports a digital fabrication facility and global network of field fab labs managed by MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms. **Website:** <http://fab.cba.mit.edu>
- 5) Maker Shed: 3D Printing and Fabrication: An outstanding resource for getting all you need to understand 3D printing and manufacturing, with 3D printers, supplies, Whether you want to print out physical objects or machine something from plastic, wood, or other materials, we have the tools and accessories you need. **Website:** http://www.makershed.com/3D_Printing_Fabrication_s/220.htm
- 6) EMachineShop: The first and leading machine shop designed from the start for the Internet, eMachineShop's mission is to provide easy, convenient and low-cost fabrication of custom parts via the web. **Website:** emachineshop.com/

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Check out our website archive: southerninnovator.org

Southern Innovator (ISSN 2222-9280) magazine's third issue is now online and print copies are available for distribution. The third issue's theme is agribusiness and food security. View the issue online here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055665/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-3-Agribusiness-and-Food-Security>. Contact us about opportunities to sponsor this issue or any future issues and we can send you more information on how it works.

Issue 4, on cities and urbanization, is complete and will be published soon. Please contact the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of Southern Innovator (<http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc.html>).

The covers for issues 2, 3 and 4 are below:



Issue 2 on Youth and Entrepreneurship; Issue 3 on agribusiness and food security, is available. Issues 4 and 5 are also in the works for 2013.

Follow us on Twitter @SouthSouth1

Issue 1 of Southern Innovator was called "...a terrific tour de force of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space..."

Also check out our South South Expo: 2012's Expo was held in Vienna, Austria: southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

NEW: Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South. The 2013 Human Development Report examines the profound shift in global dynamics driven by the fast-rising new powers of the developing world and its long-term implications for human development. **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/humandevreportpresskits/2013report/>

Human Development Reports, (1990-2013). **Website:** <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/>

The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa by Calestous Juma, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.html

NEW: The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Myths by Mariana Mazzucato, Publisher: Anthem Press. The Entrepreneurial State explores the leading role that the State has played in generating innovation and economic growth in modern capitalism. **Website:** <http://marianamazzucato.com/projects/entrepreneurial-state/>

NEW: Edible Insects: Future prospects for food and feed security, Publisher: FAO. **Website:** <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3253e/i3253e00.htm>

Innovative Africa: The New Face of Africa: Essays on the Rise of Africa's Innovation Age by Will Mutua and Mbwana Ally, Publisher: Afrinnovator. **Website:** <http://book.afrinnovator.com/>

The Coming Prosperity by Philip Auerwald, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** <http://auerswald.org/>

Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work and Think by Viktor Mayer-Schonberger and Kenneth Cukier, Publisher: John Murray. **Website:** amazon.com

The New Digital Age: Reshaping the Future of People, Nations and Business by Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen, Publisher: John Murray. **Website:** amazon.com

Interconnected Economies: Benefiting from Global Value Chains, Publisher: OECD. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/sti/ind/global-value-chains.htm>

Need, Speed and Greed: How the New Rules of Innovation Can Transform Businesses, Propel Nations to Greatness, and Tame the World's Most Wicked Problems by Vijay Vaitheeswaran, Publisher: HarperBusiness. **Website:** amazon.com

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. Living in the Endless City depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36

contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures. **Website:** <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city/>

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair, Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa, Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** amazon.com

The End of Cheap China: Economic and Cultural Trends that will Disrupt the World by Shaun Rein, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally, Publisher: PM Press. Global Slump analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, Global Slump challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation. **Website:** https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Breakout Nations by Ruchir Sharma, Publisher: Penguin. Breakout Nations offers journeys through more than two dozen of the most interesting economies in the emerging world. **Website:** <http://breakoutnations.com/>

Light Manufacturing in Africa by Hinh T. Dinh et al, Publisher: World Bank. This book examines how light manufacturing can offer a viable solution for sub-Saharan Africa's need for structural transformation and productive job creation, given its potential competitiveness based on low wage costs and an abundance of natural resources that supply raw materials needed for industries. **Website:** <http://issuu.com/world.bank.publications/docs/9780821389614>

Arrival City by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. This practical resource features learning from over 80 leading organizations that are working around the world to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Topics include youth enterprise development; workforce development; youth-inclusive financial services; working with adolescent girls and young women; and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment. **Website:** www.YouthEconomicOpportunities.org/media.asp

Vitamin Green: The Definitive Guide to the World of Contemporary Sustainable Design: Features 100 Innovative Projects from Around the World by editors of Phaidon Press, Publisher: Phaidon Press. **Website:** <http://uk.phaidon.com/store/architecture/vitamin-green-9780714862293/>

Makers: The New Industrial Revolution by Chris Anderson, Publisher: Crown Business. **Website:** amazon.com

World Economic Outlook, October 2012: Coping with High Debt and Sluggish Growth, Publisher: IMF. **Website:** eurospangroup.com

Information Economy Report 2012: The Software Industry and Developing Countries, Publisher: United Nations Publications. **Website:** eurospangroup.com

China and India: Towards Global Economic Supremacy? by Rita Dulci and Jose Miguel Andreu, Publisher: Academic Foundation. **Website:** eurospanbookstore.com

Devaluing to Prosperity: Misaligned Currencies and Their Growth Consequences by Surjit S. Bhalla, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics. **Website:** eurospanbookstore.com

Chinnovation: How Chinese Innovators are Changing the World by Yinglan Tan, Publisher: John Wiley & Sons. **Website:** amazon.com

Hello World: Where Design Meets Life by Alice Rawsthorn, Publisher: Hamish Hamilton. **Website:** amazon.com

Urgent Architecture: 40 Sustainable Housing Solutions for a Changing World by Bridgette Meinhold, Publisher: W.W. Norton & Co. **Website:** amazon.com

When the Money Runs Out: The End of Western Affluence by Stephen D. King, Publisher: Yale Books. **Website:** amazon.com

Papers and Reports

Clean Air Asia Study 2012: **Website:** <http://cleanairinitiative.org/portal/node/11338>

African Economic Outlook 2013: **Website:** <http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life: Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Innovative responses to fragility: The promise of modern technology: **Website:** <http://oecdinsights.org/2013/04/22/innovative-responses-to-fragility-the-promise-of-modern-technology/>

OECD Reviews of Agricultural Policies: Kazakhstan 2013: Publisher: OECD. Kazakhstan can boost farm sector with investment in infrastructure and innovation. **Website:** <http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/kazakhstan-review-2013.htm>

NEW: The IDS Bulletin 'China and Brazil in African Agriculture' is published in July 2013 by Wiley-Blackwell. Pre-review versions of the Bulletin articles are available free to download from www.future-agricultures.org/research/cbaa

OECD Reviews of Innovation Policy: Innovation in Southeast Asia: Publisher: OECD. This review provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of Southeast Asian countries' capacity in S&T and innovation. **Website:** http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/science-and-technology/innovation-in-southeast-asia-2012_9789264128712-en

Knowledge-based Start-ups in Mexico: Publisher: OECD. This report evaluates the performance of the knowledge-based sector in Mexico and recommends ways to improve the financing, creation and expansion of innovative knowledge-based start-ups. **Website:** http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/knowledge-based-start-ups-in-mexico_9789264193796-en

Exploring Data-Driven Innovation as a New Source of Growth: Publisher: OECD. Data continues to be a valuable asset for stimulating innovation and productivity. This report explores the potential of data and data analytics to contribute to economic growth and well-being in sectors such as online advertisement, health care, utilities, logistics and transport and public administration. It identifies areas where coherent public policies and practices for data collection, transport, storage, provision and use are needed to unlock the potential of big data. **Website:** http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/exploring-data-driven-innovation-as-a-new-source-of-growth_5k47zw3fcp43-en

BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2013: "The emerging economies - the non-OECD countries - firmly established themselves as the source of what demand growth was seen, with China and India alone accounting for nearly 90% of the increase. Just twenty years ago, the emerging economies accounted for only 42% of global consumption; now that figure is 56%." **Website:** <http://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/about-bp/statistical-review-of-world-energy-2013.html>

What is Social and Solidarity Economy and Why Does it Matter? by Peter Utting, Publisher: UNRISD. Governments and international organizations need to be paying far more attention to SSE, and question how its developmental and emancipatory potential can be realized. They should also be asking themselves whether current priorities or biases in development policies are not missing, or indeed undermining, what could be a major new game in town. **Website:** http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/newsview.nsf/%28httpNews%29/B880F260D1BE1FB5C1257B5E002F6F65?OpenDocument&utm_campaign=ebulletin_23_5_2013&utm_medium=email_html&utm_source=en&utm_content=content_link

Trees and food security in Africa; what's the link? **Website:** <http://blog.worldagroforestry.org/index.php/2013/07/04/trees-and-food-security-in-africa-whats-the-link/>

Magazines

Southern Innovator Issue 1: Mobile Phones and Information Technology Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/95410448/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-1-Mobile-Phones-and-Information-Technology>

Southern Innovator Issue 2: Youth and Entrepreneurship Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055335/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-2-Youth-and-Entrepreneurship>

Southern Innovator Issue 3: Agribusiness and Food Security Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/106055665/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-3-Agribusiness-and-Food-Security>

Southern Innovator Issue 4: Cities and Urbanization Publisher: UN Office for South-South Cooperation. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization>

New Publication

Net Journal of Agricultural Science (NJAS) is an international peer-reviewed open access journal, which publishes innovative work from all areas related to Agricultural Science. NJAS covers all areas of agriculture including arid soil research and rehabilitation, agricultural genomics, stored products research, tree fruit production, pesticide science, post-harvest biology and technology, seed science research, irrigation, agricultural engineering, water resources management, agronomy, animal science, physiology and morphology, aquaculture, crop science, dairy science, entomology, fish and fisheries, forestry, freshwater science, horticulture, poultry science, soil science, systematic biology, veterinary, virology, viticulture, weed biology, agricultural economics and agribusiness. Website: netjournals.org

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

LandWise: The Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights has just launched LandWise, a free online resource containing land-related laws, information about relevant customary practices, and explanatory materials. LandWise is an important new tool for policymakers, researchers, legal practitioners, and women's advocates working to strengthen women's land rights around the world. **Website:**

http://landwise.landesa.org/?utm_source=ADV+Plotlines+-+JULY+2013&utm_campaign=Plotlines+JULY+2013&utm_medium=email

Raspberry Pi: The Raspberry Pi is a credit-card sized computer that plugs into your TV and a keyboard. It's a capable little PC which can be used for many of the things that your desktop PC does, like spreadsheets, word-processing and games. It also plays high-definition video. Raspberry Pi want to see it being used by kids all over the world to learn programming. **Website:** raspberrypi.org

African Robotics Network: The African Robotics Network (AFRON) is a community of institutions, organizations and individuals engaged in robotics in Africa. AFRON seeks to promote communication and collaborations that will enhance robotics-related education, research and industry on the continent. To achieve this, AFRON organizes projects, meetings and events in Africa at robotics and automation conferences abroad. **Website:** <http://robotics-africa.org/>

Polis: A collaborative blog about cities around the globe. **Website:** <http://www.thepolisblog.org/2012/03/coca-cola-in-africa.html>

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this website from the Guardian newspaper tracks progress on the MDGs, encourages debate on its blogs, offers a rich store of datasets from around the world, and features monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy: Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries. **Website:** www.latameconomy.org/en/

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs): International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery. **Website:**

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. Website: globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment. **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

IDEAS Centre is dedicated to facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy and has over the last ten years assembled substantial experience on this issue. Its mission is to support policy-makers around the world working to develop approaches to ensure that globalization can be harnessed for development and to fight poverty both within their countries and in a more inclusive and fairer world trading system. **Website:** <http://www.ideascentre.ch/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. **Website:** africaportal.org
African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. **Website:** africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The Africa Renewal information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor
With "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities." **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** afrigadget.com

Medium for Haiti: This is a collection dedicated to sharing stories about rebuilding Haiti. **Website:** <https://medium.com/medium-for-haiti>

Interesting Blogger

Emeka Okafor, Timbuktu Chronicles: Emeka Okafor is an entrepreneur and venture catalyst who lives in New York City. He is the curator of Maker Faire Africa. He was the director for TED Global 2007 that took place in Arusha, Tanzania. In addition he is a member of the TED fellowship team. His interests include sustainable technologies in the developing world and paradigm-breaking technologies in general. His blog, Timbuktu Chronicles, seeks to spur dialogue in areas of entrepreneurship, technology and the scientific method as it impacts Africa. **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.co.uk/>

Notable Websites

African Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: African Brains - for forward thinking, intelligent Africans to network and propose new ideas and technologies to the world. **Website:** www.africanbrains.net

Arab Brains: The Home of Intelligent Networking: Arab Brains has been established to connect innovative Arabs across the Arab World and beyond. **Website:** <http://arabbrains.com/>

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform: This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas. **Website:** www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity': **Website:** www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

Start-up Funding

Hubs!

They are sprouting up all over the place and now there is a map showing where they are in Africa. **Website:** <https://africahubs.crowdmap.com/#>

And there are 18 in Latin America too. **Website:** <http://thenextweb.com/la/2012/08/11/18-latin-american-tech-hubs-know/>

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries. **Website:** <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways. **Website:** <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'. **Website:** www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Challenge

InnoCentive (www.innocentive.com/) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:** www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF): Rwanda Research Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF) was established and is managed by the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) in partnership with UNECA (SRO-EA & ISTD) under One UN Rwanda. The objective of this Fund is to stimulate economic transformation through R&D in innovative market-oriented products and processes in priority areas of the economy, thereby increasing prosperity and the competitiveness of the Rwandan economy. The orientation can be either for economic growth, social development or combination of the two. **Website:** <http://www.mineduc.gov.rw/spip.php?article21>

The Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA): The **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** and the **African Innovation Foundation (AIF)** are delighted to announce the call for applications for the 2013 **Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA)**. Too often, innovators and entrepreneurs are not highly profiled on the African development agenda. It is IPA's mission to elevate attention around innovative work and help support the vision of entrepreneurs. The prize honours and encourages innovative achievements that contribute towards the development of new products, increased efficiency or cost savings in Africa. The prize also promotes the efforts of young African men and women pursuing science, technology and engineering careers as well as business opportunities that aim to contribute to sustainable development in Africa. **Website:** <http://innovationprizeforafrica.org/>

Video

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

EVENTS

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

2013

August

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

Hong Kong Mini Maker Faire

Hong Kong, China (17 August 2013)

The 2nd Hong Kong Mini Maker Faire is now open for applications.

Website: <http://hkmaierfaire.wordpress.com/>

International Disaster and Risk Conference

Davos, Switzerland (24 to 28 August 2013)

The fourth annual conference on Community Resiliency on Building Resiliency into Critical Infrastructures: International Goals – National Strategies – Local Actions addresses a central question: How can national strategies ensure that local actions integrate all contextual factors in order to enhance the resiliency of a nation?

Website: <http://www.grforum.org/>

September

Launch of Latin America's 50 Best Restaurants List

Lima, Peru (4 September 2013)

The inaugural awards ceremony to celebrate Latin America's 50 Best Restaurants, sponsored by Cusqueña.

Website: <http://www.theworlds50best.com/latinamerica/en/>

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference 2013

Washington, D.C., USA (10-12 September 2013)

Purpose: Increase economic opportunities for 1.8 billion youth. The conference goal is to strengthen the impact, scale, and sustainability of youth economic opportunity programming. Be part of this premier learning event. Join leading practitioners, funders, private sector companies, researchers, educators, advocates, youth leaders and government representatives working to increase economic opportunities for young people, together with those working in the related areas of education, financial services, and health. The 2013 event will contain two Spotlights: "Opportunities for Rural Youth" focuses on how to support youth in rural areas. "Power of Technology" showcases how to utilize technology in your programming.

Website: <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/conference/register>

Launch of the Trade and Development Report 2013

(12 September 2013)

"Winds of change in the world economy: Rethinking development strategies" is the title of the Trade and Development Report 2013. The study will contend that to achieve durable and inclusive growth, developing and transition economies will need to move towards a new form of development, away from seeking net-export advantages on the back of global imbalances and towards a concentration on strengthening domestic demand and on expanding regional and South-South economic linkages.

Website: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=299>

100% Design: The future of workplace design

Earls Court, London, UK (18 to 21 September 2013)

100% Design is officially the UK's largest design trade event with over 25,000 visitors including architects, interior designers, retailers and designers. The event is held between the 18-21 September and is the biggest event during the London Design Festival. 100% Design is expected to attract over 30,000 visitors in 2013.

Website: <http://www.100percentdesign.co.uk/>

World Maker Faire 2013

New York, NY, USA (21 to 22 September 2013)

Maker Faire showcases the amazing work of all kinds and ages of makers—anyone who is embracing the do-it-yourself (or do-it-together) spirit and wants to share their accomplishments with an appreciative audience.

Website: <http://makerfaire.com/>

Medicine 2.0'13 6th World Congress on Social Media, Mobile Apps, and Internet/Web 2.0 in Health and Medicine

London, UK (23-24 September 2013)

This year hosted in London, will once again be very international and contain a unique mix of traditional academic/research, practice and business presentations, keynote presentations, and panel discussions to discuss emerging technologies in health and medicine, with an emphasis on Internet-based, social media, and mobile technologies. **Website:** <http://bit.ly/X7ZXxj>

October

4th International Conference of Crisis Mappers

Nairobi, Kenya (12 October 2013)

The International Network of Crisis Mappers is the largest and most active international community of experts, practitioners, policymakers, technologists, researchers, journalists, scholars, hackers and skilled volunteers engaged at the intersection between humanitarian crises, technology and crisis mapping.

Website: crisismappers.net

World Business Forum

Mexico City, Mexico (23 to 24 October 2013)

Two days with the most renowned thinkers on management in the world alongside the executive community in Mexico, a space for creating that new project or transforming an old one, a time for new beginnings.

Website: <http://www.wobi.com/event/world-business-forum-mexico-city-2013>

7th ECOWAS Trade Fair

Accra, Ghana (24 October to 4 November 2013)

The regional fair, which is now a biennial event, was instituted to boost intra-community trade which presently hovers between 11 and 15 percent, and thereby contributing to the improved implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS). It will also contribute to empowering local producers and stimulating the regional economy. **Website:** <http://www.ecowas.int/>

African Economic Conference 2013 - Call for Papers

Johannesburg, South Africa (28 to 30 October 2013)

The African Economic Conference 2013 is jointly organized by the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme under the theme "Regional Integration in Africa".

Website: <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/african-economic-conference-2013-call-for-papers-12008/>

The World Islamic Economic Forum

London, UK (29 to 31 October 2013)

At the 9th WIEF, sessions will be adapted to increase delegates' participation as they explore business and investment opportunities, as well as engage in discourse on topical issues and how best to address them. Key areas of focus at the upcoming forum in London include Islamic banking and finance, technology, infrastructure development, health, exports, education and youth.

Website: <http://wief.org/>

Ghana Investment Summit 2013

Accra, Ghana (29 to 30 October 2013)

Africa's recent economic surge is fueling optimism about the continent's prospects and positioning it in the minds of many investors and businesses as a significant opportunity. Blessed with a wealth of natural resources and a large, young and growing population, many economies in Africa are enjoying rates of growth and development that are the envy of the emerging world. **Website:**

<http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/ghana-investment-summit-2013/ghana-investment-summit-2013-fees-and-registration>

November

ITU Telecom World

Bangkok, Thailand (19 to 22 November 2013)

ITU Telecom World 2013 is the platform for high-level debate, knowledge-sharing and networking for the global ICT community - essential to drive industry success and address critical world socio-economic challenges. It is the one conversation that matters, with the people that matter, with the power to make a real difference in the world.

Website: <http://world2013.itu.int/>

Launch of the Least Developed Countries Report 2013

(20 November 2013)

The UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report 2013 will focus on the theme of "Growth with employment for inclusive and sustainable development". The report, noting that 130 million people will enter the labour force in LDCs by 2020, reviews past LDC trends relating to economic growth and employment and recommends policy steps to accelerate job creation. **Website:** <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=300>

UNCTAD: Africa Oil, Gas and Minerals, Trade and Finance Conference and Exhibition
Niamey, Republic of Niger (20 to 23 November 2013)

This annual event is an opportunity to highlight the potential of Niger in particular and of Africa in general, in the energy and mining sectors. The aim is to share experience, knowledge, and create new partnerships and networks.

Website: <http://www.ogtfafrica.com/>

Santiago Mini Maker Faire

Santiago, Chile (23 to 24 November 2013)

Website: <http://makerfaresantiago.com/>

Africa Oil Week

Cape Town, South Africa (25 to 29 November 2013)

The 20th Africa Oil Week 2013 taking place from 25-29th November 2013 at the new venue, the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, is the world's longest standing and leading meeting for Africa's oil and gas industry, and celebrates its Twentieth Anniversary, as over 1,250 delegates from six continents attend the Conference.

Website: <http://www.petro21.com/events/?id=790>

December

Launch of the Information Economy Report 2013

(3 December 2013)

Website: <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=301>

AWARDS AND FUNDING

The EU Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union (EU) Contest for Young Scientists, an initiative of the European Commission, was set up to promote the ideals of co-operation and interchange between young scientists.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/youngscientists/index_en.cfm?pg=history

2013 Innovation Prize for Africa

The second round of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), which aims to reward innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest, has been launched. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) expect the prize to promote among young African men and women in the pursuit of science, technology and engineering careers and business applications. The aims are to:

- Mobilize leaders from all sectors to fuel African innovation;
- Promote innovation across Africa in key sectors of interest through the competition;
- Promote science, technology and engineering as rewarding, exciting and noble career options among the youth in Africa by profiling success applicants; and
- Encourage entrepreneurs, innovators, funding bodies and business development service providers to exchange ideas and explore innovative business opportunities.

Website: InnovationPrizeForAfrica.org

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Website: www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for Proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world. The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges. For the Request for Proposals:

Website: http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for "simple solutions" that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative. The winning practice receives US \$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi-donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact: namstct@vsnl.com, namstct@bol.net.in, apknam@gmail.com

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Jobs and Careers

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market

Website: www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organization that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organizations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organizations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organization committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organizations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (Zunia.org)

Zunia.org, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world.

Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on colour markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>